

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A cutter comprising:

a base portion for supporting a workpiece;

a holder supported on the base portion;

a cutter blade portion adapted for supporting a ~~moving~~ rotatable circular saw blade that cuts the workpiece, the cutter blade portion being supported on the holder so as to be pivotally movable between an upper position and a lower position, the cutter blade portion being closer to the base portion in the lower position than in the upper position; and

a laser generator for emitting laser light, the laser generator being attached to one of the holder and the cutter blade portion in an orientation to direct at least a portion of the laser light onto a position to be cut on the workpiece so that laser light is directly beneath the ~~moving~~ rotatable circular saw blade with respect to the cutter blade portion in the upper position.

2. (currently amended) The cutter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the laser generator comprises:

a light emitting portion that irradiates the laser light onto a the position to be cut on the workpiece;

a laser generator support member supporting therein the laser generator slidable in a horizontal direction; and

means for moving the light emitting portion of the laser generator in the horizontal direction.

3. (original) The cutter as claimed in claim 2, wherein the laser generator has a first side and a second side opposite the first side, and the moving means comprises:

a screw member screwingly fitted in the laser generator support member with a tip of the screw member abutting against the first side of the laser generator, and

a resilient member interposed between the laser generator support member and the second side of the laser generator for urging the laser generator toward the screw member.

4. (withdrawn) The cutter as claimed in claim 2, wherein the moving means comprises:

a screw member extending in an extending direction through a side of the laser generator support member and into a side of the laser generator, the screw member being freely rotatable with respect to the side of the laser generator support and screwingly fit in the side of the laser generator, and

a resilient member for urging the laser generator in a direction away from the side of the laser generator support member.

5. (withdrawn) The cutter as claimed in claim 2, wherein the laser generator has a first side and a second side opposite the first side, and the moving means comprises:

a screw member extending in an extending direction through a side of the laser generator support member and threaded into the first side of the laser generator, the screw member being rotatably supported by the side of the laser generator support member but immovable in the extending direction, and

a resilient member interposed between the laser generator support member and the second side of the laser generator for urging the laser generator toward the screw member.

6. (withdrawn) The cutter as claimed in claim 2, wherein the laser generator has a first side and a second side opposite the first side, and the moving means comprises:

a screw member having one end threadingly engaged with the first side of the laser generator and another end provided with a gear wheel,

a knob member having one end provided with a pinion engaged with the gear wheel and another end provided with a knob and rotatably supported by a side of the laser generator support member; and

a resilient member interposed between the laser generator support member and the second side of the laser generator for urging the laser generator toward the screw member.

7. (withdrawn) The cutter as claimed in claim 2, wherein the laser generator has a first side and a second side opposite the first side, and the laser generator support member including an interior wall positioned in confrontation with the first side; and the moving means comprises:

a screw member having one end threadingly engaged with the first side of the laser generator, an intermediate portion rotatably supported by the interior wall, and another end provided with a gear wheel,

a knob member having one end provided with a pinion engaged with the gear wheel and another end provided with a knob rotatably supported by a side of the laser generator support member; and

a resilient member interposed between the interior wall and the first side of the laser generator for urging the laser generator away from the interior wall.

8. (withdrawn) The cutter as claimed in claim 2, wherein the laser generator has a first side, a second side opposite the first side, and a third side perpendicular to the first and second sides and extending in a horizontal direction, and the moving means comprises:

a screw bar threadingly engaged with the laser generator support member and extending in parallel with the third side of the laser generator;

a ring like member fixed to the screw bar and movable together with the screw bar, the ring like member being engaged with the third side of the laser generator; and

a resilient member interposed between the laser generator support member and the second side of the laser generator for urging the laser generator toward the first side.

9. (withdrawn) The cutter as claimed in claim 2, wherein the laser generator has a first side, a second side opposite the first side, and a third side perpendicular to the first and second sides and extending in a horizontal direction, and the moving means comprises:

a screw bar fixed to the laser generator support member and extending in parallel with the third side of the laser generator,

a ring like member threadingly engaged with the screw bar and movable in an axial direction thereof, the ring like member being engaged with the third side of the laser generator; and

a resilient member interposed between the laser generator support member and the second side of the laser generator for urging the laser generator toward the first side.

10. (original) The cutter as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a resilient body for urging the laser generator in a vertical direction.

11. (currently amended) The cutter as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a resilient body for urging the laser generator in frontward and rearward directions ~~regarding~~ as defined by a laser beam emitting direction.

12. (original) The cutter as claimed in claim 2, wherein the laser generator support member has a first side wall and a second side wall extending in a vertical direction, and further comprising a first stop member provided to the first side wall and movable in a horizontal direction and a second stop member provided to the second wall and movable in a horizontal direction for regulating a horizontal movement of the laser generator relative to the laser generator support member.

13-22. (Canceled)

23. (original) A cutter comprising:

a base portion for supporting a workpiece;

a holder supported on the base portion in an upright posture;

a cutter blade portion adapted for supporting a moving blade, the cutter blade portion being provided on an upper portion of the holder and adapted for free vertical movement toward and away from the base portion between an uppermost position to a lowermost position, the moving blade cutting through the workpiece when the cutter blade portion is moved from the uppermost position to the lowermost position;

a laser generator provided on the holder and for emitting laser light through a laser emitting portion to irradiate, with the laser light, a position to be cut on the workpiece;

a cleaning mechanism for contacting the light emitting portion of the laser generator in interlocking relation with the vertical movement of the cutter blade portion from the uppermost position to the lowermost position, the cleaning mechanism cleaning off the light emitting portion by said contact.

24. (original) The cutter as claimed in claim 23, wherein the cleaning mechanism includes a brush protruding toward the laser generator.

25-32. (Canceled)

33. (withdrawn, currently amended) The cutter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the holder ~~includes~~ comprises:

a slide shaft support portion; ~~the cutter further comprising:~~

at least one slide shaft extending through the slide shaft support portion and slidably movable in a frontward and a rearward direction with respect to the slide shaft support portion, the at least one slide shaft having a front end; and

a hinge holder fixed to the front end of the at least one slide shaft, the hinge holder having a front side, wherein the cutter blade portion is supported on the hinge holder.

34. (currently amended) A cutter comprising:

a base portion for supporting a workpiece;

a holder supported on the base portion;

a cutter blade portion adapted for supporting a circular saw blade that cuts the workpiece, the cutter blade portion being supported on the holder so as to be pivotally movable between an upper position and a lower position, the cutter blade portion being closer to the base portion in the lower position than in the upper position, the circular saw blade having a rotation axis and a blade edge in a circumferential direction of the circular saw blade, the blade edge having a width in a direction of the rotation axis, said width bounded by two parallel planes; and

a laser generator for emitting laser light, the laser generator being attached to one of the holder and the cutter blade portion to direct at least a portion of the laser light onto a position to be cut on ~~[[a]]~~ the workpiece while satisfying the following conditions:

(1) ~~the at least a portion of~~ the laser light travels within a space defined between said two planes; and

(2) the at least a portion of the laser light travels between the blade edge and the base portion when the cutter blade portion is in the upper position.

35. (currently amended) The cutter as claimed in claim 34, wherein said laser light travels in a direction ~~intersecting~~ that crosses with a longitudinal direction of the rotation axis of the circular saw blade.

36. (withdrawn, currently amended) The cutter as claimed in claim 34, wherein the holder ~~includes~~ comprises:

a slide shaft support portion; ~~the cutter further comprising:~~

at least one slide shaft extending through the slide shaft support portion and slidably movable in a frontward and a rearward direction with respect to the slide shaft support portion, the at least one slide shaft having a front end; and

a hinge holder fixed to the front end of the at least one slide shaft, the hinge holder having a front side, wherein the cutter blade portion is supported on the hinge holder.

37. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 34, wherein the laser generator comprises:

a light emitting portion that irradiates the laser light onto the position to be cut on the workpiece;

a laser generator support member supporting therein the laser generator slidable in a horizontal direction; and

means for moving the light emitting portion of the laser generator in the horizontal direction.

38. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 37, wherein the laser generator has a first side and a second side opposite the first side, and the moving means comprises:

a screw member screwingly fitted in the laser generator support member with a tip of the screw member abutting against the first side of the laser generator, and

a resilient member interposed between the laser generator support member and the second side of the laser generator for urging the laser generator toward the screw member.

39. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 37, further comprising a resilient body for urging the laser generator in a vertical direction.

40. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 37, further comprising a resilient body for urging the laser generator in frontward and rearward directions as defined by a laser beam emitting direction.

41. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 37, wherein the laser generator support member has a first side wall and a second side wall extending in a vertical direction, and further comprising a first stop member provided to the first side wall and movable in a horizontal direction and a second stop member provided to the second side wall and movable in a horizontal direction for regulating a horizontal movement of the laser generator relative to the laser generator support member.

42. (currently amended) A cutter comprising:

a base portion for supporting a workpiece;

a holder supported on the base portion;

a cutter blade portion adapted for supporting a circular saw blade that cuts the workpiece, the cutter blade portion being supported on the holder so as to be pivotally movable between an upper position and a lower position, the cutter blade portion being closer to the base portion in the lower position than in the upper position, the circular saw blade having a ~~rotating~~ rotation axis and a blade edge in a circumferential direction of the blade, the blade edge having a width in a direction of the rotation axis; and

a laser generator for emitting laser light, the laser generator being attached to one of the holder and the cutter blade portion to direct at least a portion of the laser light onto a position to be cut on a the workpiece, ~~while the at least a portion of the laser generator being configured and arranged so that an entire width of the laser light on the workpiece travels is locatable~~ within a space defined by a ~~moving~~ locus of the width of the blade edge as the cutter blade portion moves from the upper position to the lower position.

43. (currently amended) The cutter as claimed in claim 42, wherein said laser light travels in a direction ~~intersecting~~ that crosses with a longitudinal direction of the rotation axis of the circular saw blade.

44. (withdrawn, currently amended) The cutter as claimed in claim 42, wherein the holder ~~includes~~ comprises:

a slide shaft support portion; ~~the cutter further comprising:~~

at least one slide shaft extending through the slide shaft support portion and slidably movable in frontward and rearward directions with respect to the slide shaft support portion, the at least one slide shaft having a front end; and

a hinge holder fixed to the front end of the at least one slide shaft, the hinge holder having a front side, wherein the cutter blade portion is supported on the hinge holder.

45. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 42, wherein the laser generator comprises:

a light emitting portion that irradiates the laser light onto the position to be cut on the workpiece;

a laser generator support member supporting therein the laser generator slidable in a horizontal direction; and

means for moving the light emitting portion of the laser generator in the horizontal direction.

46. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 45, wherein the laser generator has a first side and a second side opposite the first side, and the moving means comprises:

a screw member screwingly fitted in the laser generator support member with a tip of the screw member abutting against the first side of the laser generator, and

a resilient member interposed between the laser generator support member and the second side of the laser generator for urging the laser generator toward the screw member.

47. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 45, further comprising a resilient body for urging the laser generator in a vertical direction.

48. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 45, further comprising a resilient body for urging the laser generator in frontward and rearward directions as defined by a laser beam emitting direction.

49. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 45, wherein the laser generator support member has a first side wall and a second side wall extending in a vertical direction, and further comprising a first stop member provided to the first side wall and movable in a horizontal direction and a second stop member provided to the second side wall and movable in a horizontal direction for regulating a horizontal movement of the laser generator relative to the laser generator support member.

50. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the holder is further pivotable in a second manner with respect to the base portion, so that an angle made by the circular saw blade and the base portion is changed when the holder is pivoted in the second manner with respect to the base portion.

51. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 34, wherein the holder is further pivotable in a second manner with respect to the base portion, so that an angle made by the circular saw blade and the base portion is changed when the holder is pivoted in the second manner with respect to the base portion.

52. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 42, wherein the holder is further pivotable in a second manner with respect to the base portion, so that an angle made by the circular saw blade and the base portion is changed when the holder is pivoted in the second manner with respect to the base portion.

53. (new) A cutter comprising:

a base portion for supporting a workpiece;

a holder supported on the base portion;

a cutter blade portion adapted for supporting a rotatable circular saw blade that cuts the workpiece, the cutter blade portion being supported on the holder so as to be pivotally movable between an upper position and a lower position, the cutter blade portion being closer to the base portion in the lower position than in the upper position; and

a laser generator for emitting laser light, the laser generator being attached to the holder in an orientation to direct at least a portion of the laser light onto a position to be cut on the workpiece so that laser light is directly beneath the rotatable circular saw blade with respect to the cutter blade portion in the upper position.

54. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 53, wherein the laser generator comprises:

a light emitting portion that irradiates the laser light onto a position to be cut on the workpiece;

a laser generator support member supporting therein the laser generator slidable in a horizontal direction; and

means for moving the light emitting portion of the laser generator in the horizontal direction.

55. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 54, wherein the laser generator has a first side and a second side opposite the first side, and the moving means comprises:

a screw member screwingly fitted in the laser generator support member with a tip of the screw member abutting against the first side of the laser generator, and

a resilient member interposed between the laser generator support member and the second side of the laser generator for urging the laser generator toward the screw member.

56. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 54, further comprising a resilient body for urging the laser generator in a vertical direction.

57. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 54, further comprising a resilient body for urging the laser generator in frontward and rearward directions as defined by a laser beam emitting direction.

58. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 54, wherein the laser generator support member has a first side wall and a second side wall extending in a vertical direction, and further comprising a first stop member provided to the first side wall and movable in a horizontal direction and a second stop member provided to the second side wall and movable in a horizontal direction for regulating a horizontal movement of the laser generator relative to the laser generator support member.

59. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 53, wherein the holder is further pivotable in a second manner with respect to the base portion, so that an angle made by the circular saw blade and the base portion is changed when the holder is pivoted in the second manner with respect to the base portion.

60. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 53, wherein the holder comprises:

a slide shaft support portion;

at least one slide shaft extending through the slide shaft support portion and slidably movable in a frontward and a rearward direction with respect to the slide shaft support portion, the at least one slide shaft having a front end; and

a hinge holder fixed to the front end of the at least one slide shaft, the hinge holder having a front side, wherein the cutter blade portion is supported on the hinge holder.

61. (new) A cutter comprising:

a base portion for supporting a workpiece;

a holder supported on the base portion;

a cutter blade portion adapted for supporting a circular saw blade that cuts the workpiece, the cutter blade portion being supported on the holder so as to be pivotally movable between an upper position and a lower position, the cutter blade portion being closer to the base portion in the lower position than in the upper position, the circular saw blade having a rotation axis and a blade edge in a circumferential direction of the circular saw blade, the blade edge having a width in a direction of the rotation axis, said width bounded by two parallel planes; and

a laser generator for emitting laser light, the laser generator being attached to the holder to direct at least a portion of the laser light onto a position to be cut on the workpiece while satisfying the following conditions:

(1) the laser light travels within a space defined between said two planes; and

(2) the at least a portion of the laser light travels between the blade edge and the base portion when the cutter blade portion is in the upper position.

62. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 61, wherein said laser light travels in a direction that crosses with a longitudinal direction of the rotation axis of the blade.

63. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 61, wherein the laser generator comprises:

a light emitting portion that irradiates the laser light onto the position to be cut on the workpiece;

a laser generator support member supporting therein the laser generator slidable in a horizontal direction; and

means for moving the light emitting portion of the laser generator in the horizontal direction.

64. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 63, wherein the laser generator has a first side and a second side opposite the first side, and the moving means comprises:

a screw member screwingly fitted in the laser generator support member with a tip of the screw member abutting against the first side of the laser generator, and

a resilient member interposed between the laser generator support member and the second side of the laser generator for urging the laser generator toward the screw member.

65. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 63, further comprising a resilient body for urging the laser generator in a vertical direction.

66. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 63, further comprising a resilient body for urging the laser generator in frontward and rearward directions as defined by a laser beam emitting direction.

67. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 63, wherein the laser generator support member has a first side wall and a second side wall extending in a vertical direction, and further comprising a first stop member provided to the first side wall and movable in a horizontal direction and a second stop member provided to the second side wall and movable in a horizontal direction for regulating a horizontal movement of the laser generator relative to the laser generator support member.

68. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 61, wherein the holder is further pivotable in a second manner with respect to the base portion, so that an angle made by the circular saw blade and the base portion is changed when the holder is pivoted in the second manner with respect to the base portion.

69. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 61, wherein the holder comprises:

a slide shaft support portion;

at least one slide shaft extending through the slide shaft support portion and slidably movable in a frontward and a rearward direction with respect to the slide shaft support portion, the at least one slide shaft having a front end; and

a hinge holder fixed to the front end of the at least one slide shaft, the hinge holder having a front side, wherein the cutter blade portion is supported on the hinge holder.

70. (new) A cutter comprising:

a base portion for supporting a workpiece;

a holder supported on the base portion;

a cutter blade portion adapted for supporting a circular saw blade that cuts the workpiece, the cutter blade portion being supported on the holder so as to be pivotally movable between an upper position and a lower position, the cutter blade portion being closer to the base portion in the lower position than in the upper position, the circular saw blade having a rotation axis and a blade edge in a circumferential direction of the blade, the blade edge having a width in a direction of the rotation axis; and

a laser generator for emitting laser light, the laser generator being attached to the holder to direct at least a portion of the laser light onto a position to be cut on the workpiece, the laser generator being configured and arranged so that an entire width of the laser light is locatable within a space defined by a locus of the width of the blade edge as the cutter blade portion moves from the upper position to the lower position.

71. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 70, wherein said laser light travels in a direction that crosses with a longitudinal direction of the rotation axis of the blade.

72. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 70, wherein the laser generator comprises:
a light emitting portion that irradiates the laser light onto the position to be cut on the workpiece;
a laser generator support member supporting therein the laser generator slidable in a horizontal direction; and
means for moving the light emitting portion of the laser generator in the horizontal direction.

73. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 72, wherein the laser generator has a first side and a second side opposite the first side, and the moving means comprises:
a screw member screwingly fitted in the laser generator support member with a tip of the of the screw member abutting against the first side of the laser generator, and
a resilient member interposed between the laser generator support member and the second side of the laser generator for urging the laser generator toward the screw member.

74. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 72, further comprising a resilient body for urging the laser generator in a vertical direction.

75. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 72, further comprising a resilient body for urging the laser generator in frontward and rearward directions as defined by a laser beam emitting direction.

76. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 72, wherein the laser generator support member has a first side wall and a second side wall extending in a vertical direction, and further comprising a first stop member provided to the first side wall and movable in a horizontal direction and a second stop member provided to the second side wall and movable in a horizontal direction for regulating a horizontal movement of the laser generator relative to the laser generator support member.

77. (new) The cutter as claimed in claim 70, wherein the holder is further pivotable in a second manner with respect to the base portion, so that an angle made by the circular saw blade and the base portion is changed when the holder is pivoted in the second manner with respect to the base portion.

78. (New) The cutter as claimed in claim 70, wherein the holder comprises:
a slide shaft support portion;
at least one slide shaft extending through the slide shaft support portion and slidably movable in a frontward and a rearward direction with respect to the slide shaft support portion, the at least one slide shaft having a front end; and
a hinge holder fixed to the front end of the at least one slide shaft, the hinge holder having a front side, wherein the cutter blade portion is supported on the hinge holder.